



Learning thru Sharing

Learning Life & Work Skills thru Sharing Talents and Experiences



What is Learning Thru Sharing?

- Learning Thru Sharing was developed with specific goals in mind to benefit the participants in their search for employment and independence.
- Learning thru Sharing was created to help low functioning ESL students explore career options while working on their English skills.
- We found there was no career exploration for low functioning ESL students.

Partnerships

This project is a result of a strong partnership with the SW MN Private Industry Council and the local ABE. With the partnership we are able to provide the following;

- This project exemplifies the outcome sought out of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act which calls on us to collaborate and more fully serve our customers. These customers can be solely ABE, SW MN PIC, or both.
- Insurance benefits-Customers are covered under ABE.
- Through this partnership services we provided to our customers are available to participants.
- Volunteer site partnership:
 - Senior Center
 - Assisted Living site
 - Advanced Opportunities



Goals of the Program

- Gain more language within the classroom to become more employable.
- Integrate into the community.
- Help low functioning ESL students explore career options while working on their English skills.
- Building resumes for participants who are re-entering the job market.
- Gain more options for activity hours for the programs

Facts unique to a smaller community program in greater MN

- If people live here and they have enough literacy to find a job, they are working.
- The majority of the students served here are either at the beginning level or intermediate high/adult secondary level in the Adult-Ed classes.
- These students are primarily served through ESL classes or the FastTRAC/Pathway to Prosperity Career Trainings.
- ESL eligible students often find the workplace environment as the primary place they are coming in contact with residents of the community.
- Insufficient printed materials for ESL learners to understand and familiarize themselves with different career pathways and opportunities available to them.

How we help our students

Learning Thru Sharing focuses on the lower literacy ESL student to:

1. Teach students in a classroom the fundamentals of how to be successful employees (Workplace Literacy)
2. Obtain the following;
 - Work and experiences
 - Integrate into the community
 - Volunteer opportunities in different settings to experience diverse career options
 - Networking

How we help our customers cont.

- Helping customers who are re-entering the job market by building up their resume while enhancing their learning experience for hands on occupational exploration.
- Students are able to see more options for a career VS a job.
- Helping customers seek out work when current job starts to slow down (Ex. Production slows down and moving to a different department to gain hours.)

How we help out customers cont.

- Customers become more comfortable with the English language.
- Avoid miscommunication on the job with supervisor and co workers.
- Openness of community members making the customer feel more at ease.
- Teaching customers time management.

Participants Gain

- Opportunities to speak English
 - Many participants are students in ESL classes, being out in the community gives them a chance to use their new language skills.
- Learning Soft Job Skills
 - Refers to an employee's people skills and communication skills.
- Meeting new people and networking
 - Getting out in the community allows the participant to create a network of people. This creates the exchange of skills and talents.
- Working as a team
 - Participants learn about dividing the duties and sharing the responsibilities of a particular job.
- Resume Building
 - Many participants have no prior work experience, listing their volunteer experience can act as a substitute.
- Becoming a good employee
 - Teaching participants about time management, working with others, sharing talents and skills, and effective communication.

Activities and Experiences

1. Sis Blut played bingo at Hill Street Place. She introduced herself, played bingo, won 2 times, and visited with residents at coffee time.

☐ Benefits for her:

- recognize and say numbers,
- interacted with community members,
- spoke English,
- learned the name of the coin-a dime and its value.



Activities and Experiences Cont.

Class worked with Advance Opportunities. They worked with people who have developmental disabilities.

1. Gained experience working with people who have disabilities.
2. They also discover their similarities.



Activities and Experiences Cont.

Heart to Heart allowed Learning thru Sharing participants to help prepare food for distribution.

- They were giving back to the community
- It was good for community members to see recipients working to make Heart to Heart happen.

Activities and Experiences Cont.

Learning thru Sharing participants went to the Adult Community Center and made Sambusa for the Senior Citizens.

- Benefits for L/S participants:
 - Interaction with community members
 - Giving back to the community through sharing of their native food.
- Benefits for the community members:
 - Tasting new food
 - Meeting people of different cultures



Activities and Experiences Cont.

Learning thru Sharing participants helped prepare Meals on Wheels lunches.

- Introduced them to a community program and gave them an opportunity to help others



What does all this accomplish?

Learning thru Sharing participants:

1. Self Esteem

- The participants accomplish things that help to increase self perception and confidence. Such as: Schedule a bus ride, make a jean bag, meet a new person, etc.

2. Networking

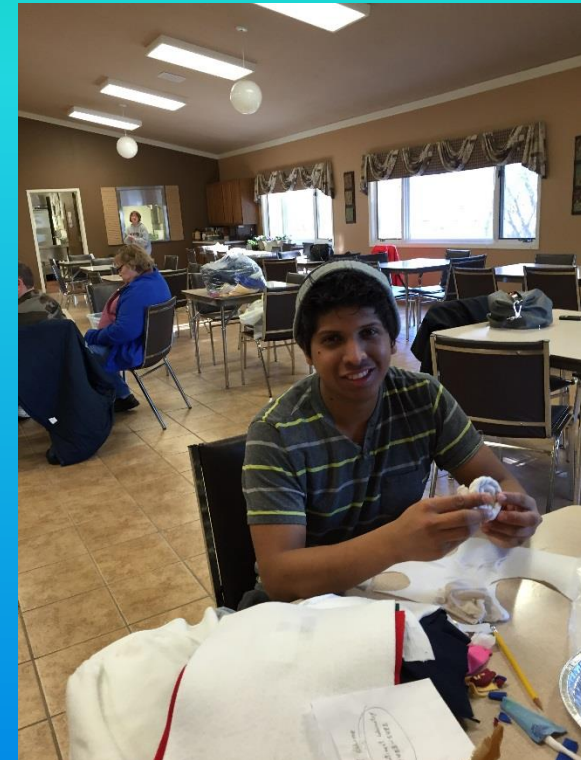
- They get to know the community and prove themselves as valuable employees.

3. Problem Solving

- Students are presented with problems and have to figure out a solution on their own.
 - Ex: A sewing machine broke and two students worked together to fix it.

4. Improves English

- Students are given a unique opportunity to converse with each other and the community in English. This gives them a chance to apply what has been taught in class.



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